

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04939 300946Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL IZMIR
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
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DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 4939

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF ECEVIT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

REF: ANKARA 4925 (DTG 219920Z JUN 77)

1. SUMMARY: IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PRESENTED JUNE 28, PRIMIN ECEVIT EXPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PROMISED THAT IN ITS EFFORTS TO RESTORE DOMESTIC SECURITY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL STRICTLY FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW. HE ALSO REAFFIRMED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04939 300946Z

TURKEY'S ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND THE SECULAR STATE ESTABLISHED BY ATATURK. PROMISING GREATER FREEDOM FOR LABOR TO ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT ITS ACTIVITIES, ECEVIT ALSO STATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO SEEK DEVELOPMENT OF THE POOR EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS (WHERE THE KURDS, TURKEY'S LARGEST AND POOREST MINORITY, ARE CONCENTRATED.) HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE REPEAL OF ARTICLES

141, 142, AND 163 OF THE TURKISH CRIMINAL CODE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM HAS SEVERAL IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS WHICH SHOULD BE NOTED. A CENTRAL THEME IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESTORATION OF DOMESTIC SECURITY. ECEVIT PROMISED EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAW TO ALL CITIZENS, AND SAID THAT PERSONAL FREEDOM WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO JEOPARDIZE THE SECURITY OF OTHERS OR THE UNITY OF THE STATE. HE FURTHERMORE PROMISED THAT NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO EXPEDITE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT, DECLARING THAT THE EFFICACY OF TURKEY'S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WOULD BE INCREASED. HE ALSO GAVE ASSURANCE THAT STATE SECURITY FORCES WOULD BE NEUTRAL AND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SECURITY OF LIFE FOR ALL CITIZENS.

3. CRITICIZING THE PREDECESSOR NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT, WHICH HE ASSERTED PERMITTED FIGHTING AMONG CITIZENS OVER DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, ECEVIT AFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. HE SAID, "CLASHES OF IDEAS AND FREE DISCUSSION OF VIEWS WITHIN DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES INCREASE THE CREATIVITY AND STRENGTH OF THE NATION AND SPEED DEVELOPMENT."

4. STRESSING THE VALUE WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT PLACES ON THE LABOR MOVEMENT, ECEVIT PROMISED TO PROTECT AND SPREAD THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ANKARA 04939 300946Z

RIGHTS OF LABOR. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID THAT LAWS LIMITING THE EXERCISE OF WORKERS' DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND LAWS CURTAILING THE RIGHTS OF LABOR UNIONS WILL BE AMENDED.

5. IN THE ECONOMIC SECTIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM (REPORTED SEPTEL), ECEVIT OUTLINED A PROGRAM WHICH (WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO) WOULD BENEFIT TURKEY'S LARGEST AND MOST ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED MINORITY, THE KURDS, THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGLECTED PROVINCES OF EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY WHERE MOST KURDS ARE CONCENTRATED.

6. APPARENTLY IN THE HOPE OF WINNING THE SUPPORT OF CONSERVATIVE DEPUTIES, ECEVIT DID NOT REPEAT NOT CALL FOR THE REPEAL OF ARTICLES 141, 142 AND 163 OF THE TURKISH CRIMINAL CODE WHICH HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE TURKISH BAR ASSOCIATION AS ABRIDGING HUMAN RIGHTS (DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY HAD CALLED FOR THE REPEAL OF ARTICLES 141 AND 142 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE. THESE LAWS PROHIBIT THE ESPOUSAL OF COMMUNIST IDEAS AND WERE WIDELY USED IN THE 1971-73 MARTIAL LAW PERIOD TO JUSTIFY THE INTERROGATION AND IMPRISONING OF ALLEGED LEFTISTS. ARTICLE 163 OF THE CODE PROHIBITS

THE USE OF RELIGION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.)

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